

Remarks/Arguments:

I. Status

The Office Action dated June 30, 2006 (the "Office Action") has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-2, 4, 12-14 and 16-22 have been cancelled, claims 3, 5, 7, 8, and 15 have been amended and claims 23-29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 3, 5-11, 15 and 23-29 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 23, 24 and 27

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-7 and 14-16 as depending from a rejected claim but noted that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 23 presents the limitations of former claim 4, including the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims, in independent form. Claim 24 presents the limitations of former claim 14, including the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims, in independent form. Claim 27 presents the limitations of former claim 16, including the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims, in independent form. Accordingly, the Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 23, 24 and 27 are allowable over the prior art.

III. Claims 3, 5-11, 15

Claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 23 and claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 24. Claim 6 depends upon claim 23 through claim 5 and claims 9-11 depend from claim 23 through claim 8.

As discussed above, claims 23 and 24 are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5-11 and 15 are allowable.

IV. Claims 25-26 and 28-29

New claims 25-26 and 28-29 include limitations previously set forth in claims 20 and 22. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Additionally, new claims 25-26 depend from claim 24 and claims 28-29 depend from claim 27 which are allowable as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-26 and 28-29 are allowable.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request a prompt and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,
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/James D. Wood/

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